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Claims:

- SUB A1
1. Sod harvesting device, comprising a mobile chassis with a first knife (21) that is capable of cutting a sod (3) free from a field and a second knife (22) that is capable of cutting off the sod in a direction that is transverse to the direction of travel, whereby the second knife is equipped with actuation means (42,44,45) which cause the second knife to work into the sod when a desired sod length has been reached and where transport means (6) are present near the first knife to receive the cut away sod and to carry it away, characterised in that an electronic sensor (81,82) is installed near a conveyor track (6) for the sod, which is capable of recording at least a measure for a length of passing sod and of producing this as an electronic signal and in that the sensor is linked by electronic means to the actuation means for the second knife in order to release the second knife upon reaching a predetermined sod length.
2. Device according to claim 1 characterised in that the sensor is linked to the actuation means (42,44,45) via a central processing unit (100).
3. Device according to claim 2 characterised in that the electronic sensor contains a measuring wheel (81) to rest on and to be driven by a passing sod, and that a sensor (82) linked to the measuring wheel records a rotation of the measuring wheel and produces an electronic signal
4. Device according to claim 3 characterised in that the sensor (82) is capable of recording a rotation direction of the measuring wheel (81).
5. Device according to claim 3 or 4 characterised in that the sensor includes an incremental pulse generator.
6. Device according to one of the aforementioned claims characterised in that electronic detection means (90) are applied to record the presence of a sod in the conveyor track (6) and to produce this as an electronic signal.
7. Device according to claim 6 characterised in that the sensor is freely suspended in a direction essentially transverse to the conveyor track for the sod in order to be raised from a point of departure when a sod passes, and in that the detection means are linked to a suspension of the sensor.

AMENDED SHEET

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Device according to claim 7 characterised in that the means of detection comprise an electronic switch (90) that is capable of cooperating with the suspension of the sensor (80), at least on leaving its point of departure.

9. Device according to one of the aforementioned claims characterised in that means (95,96) are installed next to a conveyor track for the sod in order to determine the thickness of the sod and to produce this as an electronic value.

10. Device according to claim 9 characterised in that the sensor is freely suspended in a direction transverse to the conveyor track and in that the means for determining the thickness of the sod comprise a raise detector that is capable of recording an amount of raising of the sensor and producing this as an electronic value.

11. Device according to claim 10 characterised in that the raise detector contains a slide resistor that is linked to the sensor.

12. Device according to one of the aforementioned claims characterised in that the first knife (21) is adjustable and is equipped with adjustment means (23,24,25) that can be controlled by a central processing unit (100).

13. Device according to claim 12 characterised in that the means of adjustment contains an electronically controlled actuator (25) connected to the first knife.

14. Device according to one of the aforementioned claims characterised in that the electronically controlled mechanisms for the second knife (22) contains an electronic clutch (45) that is incorporated in a transmission between a drive (44) for the chassis and a cam disc (42) on which the second knife rests under spring (41) pressure.